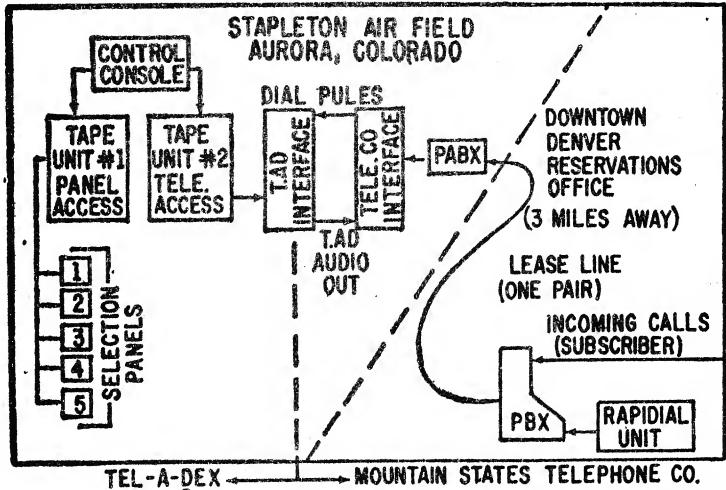


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AIRLINE INFORMATION SERVICE: A semi-automatic flight system installed for Western Airlines at Denver by Tel-A-Dex Corp., Monrovia, Calif., is shown in the illustration.

Passenger Flight Data System Of Tel-A-Dex Uses Telephone

By GERALD PARKINSON

Fairchild News Service®

MONROVIA, Calif. — A semiautomatic system whereby the public can obtain prerecorded flight information by telephone is now partly operational at Stapleton Air Field, Denver, Col.

Installed for Western Airlines by Tel-A-Dex Corp., here, the system uses a Tel-A-Dex tape unit interfaced with telephone equipment.

The standard Tel-A-Dex is designed for use by airline passengers at the airport. It uses a 50-foot, 1-inch magnetic tape with a storage capacity of 156 8-second messages. The traveler finds his question on a selection panel, dials a three-digit number and receives the answer from the tape.

Western Airlines' Denver operation is the first to have the telephone system, although standard Tel-A-Dex units are in use at Western's facilities in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Minneapolis. Other installations are planned for Salt Lake City and Las Vegas.

Extension Planned.

A Western Airlines spokesman said the firm planned to extend the telephone capability to the other facilities, once the Denver system became completely operational.

In the Denver system the inquirer's telephone call is taken by a PBX operator and plugged into the Tel-A-Dex line. The operator then dials the question by means of a rapidial, and the enquirer

receives the answer over the phone.

The system was set up in cooperation with Mountain States Telephone Co., which is part of the Bell Telephone System.

Interface equipment installed by the telephone company includes pulsing relays which are activated when the PBX operator dials the Tel-A-Dex. These, in turn, pulse relays in Tel-A-Dex interface equipment 180° out of phase.

"From that point on, the equipment functions as a standard Tel-A-Dex unit," said a Tel-A-Dex spokesman. He added that the Tel-A-Dex equipment has complete dc isolation. The firm's interface equipment is all solid state.

Maximum access time for messages was said to be 3 seconds. Messages can be erased and re-recorded in 20 seconds.

Four categories of messages are recorded on the tape: Flight arrivals, departures, weather at principal cities and miscellaneous information.

A second tape unit provides the same information to passengers, through five electronic directories strategically located throughout the terminal. Each of the two units provides answers to 192 repetitive questions.

Tel-A-Dex is a wholly owned subsidiary of Consolidated Systems Corp., also in Monrovia.